CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A pressure-relief valve for an oil-filled transformer or tap changer having a casing, the valve comprising:

a flange formed with a throughgoing port;

means for securing the flange to the casing;

a seal surrounding the port;

a spring plate spaced outward from the port;

a rigid post secured directly to the spring plate and to the flange and fixing the spring plate relative to the flange;

a valve body between the spring plate and the flange and displaceable between a closed position engaging the seal and closing the port and an open position spaced outward from the port and permitting flow out of the casing through the port;

a spring having an outer end bearing against the spring plate and an inner end bearing against the valve body to urge the valve body into the closed position, whereby when pressure in the casing exceeds a predetermined limit the valve body is pushed out and fluid in the casing can pass into the housing and thence out of the housing;

a cup-shaped housing engaged over and covering the valve body, spring plate, post, and spring, the housing having an end

wall spaced from the flange and a side wall projecting from the end wall toward the casing and forming a rim, the spring plate subdividing an interior of the housing into an inner compartment holding the valve body and spring and into which the port opens and a separate outer compartment between the spring plate and the end wall, the side wall being formed at the inner compartment with a throughgoing vent opening, whereby the spring plate blocks fluid flow from the inner compartment to the outer compartment;

means for removably securing the rim directly to the flange, whereby removal of the housing exposes the spring plate, post, valve body, and spring;

a rigid feedthrough plate fixed to the flange and extending to the outer compartment, the housing side wall being fitted around the feedthrough plate; and

a cable extending from the switch inside the outer compartment through the feedthrough plate to outside the compartment.

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) The pressure-relief valve defined in claim 15, further comprising:

an indicating member fixed on the valve body and projecting through the spring plate into the outer compartment; and

a switch in the outer compartment actuatable by the indicating member.

18. (previously presented) The pressure-relief valve defined in claim 17 wherein the outer compartment is above the inner compartment.

19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) The pressure-relief valve defined in claim 15, further comprising
screws securing the housing to the feedthrough plate.

21. (previously presented) The pressure-relief valve defined in claim 15 wherein the vent opening is formed in the housing side wall opposite the feedthrough plate.

22. (previously presented) The pressure-relief valve defined in claim 17, further comprising
at least one stud on the spring plate, the switch being mounted on the stud.

23. (previously presented) The pressure-relief valve defined in claim 17, wherein the indicating member is a pin projecting through the end wall of the housing.

24. (previously presented) The pressure-relief valve defined in claim 23 wherein the pin has an outer end provided with a mushroom-shaped head.

25. (previously presented) The pressure-relief valve defined in claim 15, further comprising

at least one pin displaceable transversely of the side wall in the flange between an outer position projecting from the flange through a complementary hole in the housing side wall and an inner position recessed in the flange; and

a respective spring braced between the pin and the flange and urging the pin into the outer position.

26. (previously presented) The pressure-relief valve defined in claim 25 wherein the pin has a rounded end.

27. (previously presented) The pressure-relief valve defined in claim 15 wherein the flange is formed with a threaded bore having an inner end forming a seat and with a passage extending between the seat and an inner surface of the flange in the port, the valve further comprising

a threaded valve member screwed into the threaded bore and being screwable between an inner position engaging the seat and blocking the passage and an outer position disengaged from the seat and unblocking the passage.

28. (previously presented) The pressure-relief valve defined in claim 27 wherein the threaded valve member has a tip engageable with the seat and a bore having an outer end open outside the valve and an inner end open adjacent the tip, whereby, when the threaded valve member is screwed back off the seat, fluid can flow from the passage into the bore.

29. (previously presented) The pressure-relief valve defined in claim 15 wherein the vent opening is an array of small-diameter holes.

30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) A pressure-relief valve for an oil-filled transformer or tap changer having a casing, the valve comprising:

a flange formed with a throughgoing port;

means for securing the flange to the casing;

a seal surrounding the port;

a spring plate spaced outward from the port;

a rigid post secured directly to the spring plate and to the flange and fixing the spring plate relative to the flange;

a valve body between the spring plate and the flange and displaceable between a closed position engaging the seal and closing the port and an open position spaced outward from the port and permitting flow out of the casing through the port;

a spring having an outer end bearing against the spring plate and an inner end bearing against the valve body to urge the valve body into the closed position, whereby when pressure in the casing exceeds a predetermined limit the valve body is pushed out and fluid in the casing can pass into the housing and thence out of the housing;

a cup-shaped housing engaged over and covering the valve body, spring plate, post, and spring, the housing having an end wall spaced from the flange and a side wall projecting from the end wall toward the casing and forming a rim, the housing being formed with a throughgoing and horizontally extending vent slot;

a rigid feedthrough plate fixed to the flange between the end wall and the spring plate, the housing side wall being fitted around the feedthrough plate;

means for removably securing the rim directly to the flange, whereby removal of the housing exposes the spring plate, post, valve body, and spring; and

a shield hood above the slot.

32. (previously presented) The pressure-relief valve defined in claim 15 wherein the seal has a beveled annular seal face engageable with the valve body.

33. (canceled)